

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, February 4, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Furey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Furey, Sargent,  
Siani, Tsao, and Chairperson Rudolph.

Absent: Commissioners Herring and Walter.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan,  
Project Manager Sedadi, and  
Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved to grant Commissioners Herring and Walter excused absences for the February 4, 2013 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tsao moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Herring and Walter).

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5a. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2012**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved to approve the December 3, 2012 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Herring and Walter).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

Chairperson Rudolph explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

Carlos Madrid, Macafee Road, expressed concern about the west exit of the shopping center on Calle Mayor and Pacific Coast Highway. He stated that accidents frequently occur as cars exit the parking lot, primarily turning left or traveling directly across Calle Mayor to Vanderhill Road. He recommended making it Right Turn Only, adding that there are also accidents as vehicles turn left into the alleyway behind Ralph's that accesses South High School.

Thomas Cook, Via Corona, stated that No Parking/Tow Away signs were recently installed at the parking lot at the end of Via Corona and maintained that residents were never informed about the change. He distributed and explained photographs, and suggested that the signs be removed until a determination can be made.

Gordon Reiler, Via Corona, questioned if installation of the signs went through proper channels and stated that he has found three other No Parking signs on dead-end streets in the City.

Lauren Perelmuter, Via Corona, maintained that the No Parking signs have made parking inconvenient for residents and visitors, and that street sweeping is impossible because of cars now parked along the street. She stated that trash trucks are not using the parking area to turn around but only go forward and backward. She distributed photographs and expressed safety concerns about children playing in the street now that cars are forced to park on the street.

Tom Tanaka, Via Corona, stated that visitors are unable to find a place to park, concurred that trucks do not use the area to turn around, and voiced concern about potential decline of property values.

Commissioner Sargent directed staff to bring back their recommended options for both the shopping center on Calle Mayor as well as the parking issue on Via Corona.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that staff would bring back background information at the March 4, 2013 Commission meeting and at that time the Commission would have the opportunity to provide direction.

## **7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

### **7a. STATUS REPORT ON THE PROTECTED PERMISSIVE LEFT TURN SIGNAL**

Project Manager Sedadi presented background and results of the feasibility analysis conducted by Albert Grover & Associates to determine if Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) Protected Permissive Left Turn (PPLT) is appropriate for four intersections: Sepulveda Boulevard at Hickory Avenue, Sepulveda Boulevard at Arlington Avenue, Sepulveda at Cabrillo Avenue, and Prairie Avenue at 182<sup>nd</sup> Street. She stated that the consultants looked at collision data, intersection turning movement count data, sight distance and field observation, and Level of Service analysis.

She presented the recommendation to install PPLT with FYA for the viable movements at the following intersections: Northbound and Southbound Arlington Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard, Northbound and Southbound Cabrillo Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard, and all approaches on Prairie Avenue & 182<sup>nd</sup> Street. She stated that the consultant recommended starting with these directions before moving forward with implementation on Sepulveda Boulevard. Referring to Sepulveda Boulevard at Hickory Avenue, she advised that the consultant recommends modifying the north-south split phasing to concurrent permissive operation on Hickory Avenue which will save approximately 12 seconds per cycle.

Engineering Manager Semaan pointed out that implementing PPLT at Hickory Avenue would actually degrade the Level of Service. Referring to Arlington and Cabrillo Avenues, he explained that Sepulveda Boulevard has a high volume of traffic and it is a matter of preference which direction to start the educational component of FYA PPLT. He stated that staff would monitor the accident history at the locations as drivers become

familiar with FYA PPLT and the success of that would allow them to move forward with implementation of east-west turns on Sepulveda Boulevard.

In response to Commissioner Sargent's inquiry about a timeline, he stated that monitoring the accident history and the educational component would take 12 to 18 months after implementation. He stated that they would like to go to protected mode only if there are three or more vehicles waiting to turn. He pointed out that the proposed operational improvements, as well as modifications at Hickory Avenue, would help improve the traffic flow on Sepulveda Boulevard.

Responding to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiries, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the feasibility analysis is a non-biased report, with the goal to build on success rather than failure. He further stated that City Council approved \$115,000 for the design contract and, based on implementation costs and success, other intersections could be considered.

Chairperson Rudolph stated that Prairie Avenue and 182<sup>nd</sup> Street appears to be receiving the largest benefit and questioned if they should explore another intersection in South Torrance to expand the public education element.

Engineering Manager Semaan noted that a fourth location for consideration is the intersection of Mariner Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard. He stated that a signal was designed and installed for PPLT operation during the Del Amo Boulevard extension. He suggested moving forward with the three intersections as recommended with the goal to add this intersection and more in the future.

Responding to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry, he explained that the intersection of 182<sup>nd</sup> Street and Crenshaw Boulevard is not a viable candidate for PPLT because it is part of a bigger project for improvements being planned.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that they would definitely install queuing detectors and, if the budget allows, video detectors as well.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved to concur with staff recommendation to install Protected Permissive Left Turn with Flashing Yellow Arrow for the following intersections: Northbound and Southbound Arlington Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard, Northbound and Southbound Cabrillo Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard, and all approaches on Prairie Avenue & 182<sup>nd</sup> Street. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Herring and Walter).

The Commission was in recess from 7:59 to 8:08 p.m.

#### **7b. DISCUSSION ON NEW TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN**

Engineering Manager Semaan distributed packets that were used by facilitator Len Wood when the Traffic Commission developed their last Work Plan. He asked Commissioners to consider new Work Plan items and listed their suggestions as follows:

- Anza, Carson, Artesia, and Torrance corridors
- All train crossings
- Alternate modes of transportation – bike lanes in color
- Pedestrian signal improvements count down - more warning
- Remove protected left turn signals

Adopt a street – pot holes  
Right turn overlap arrows  
Parkway improvements – 182<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Post “Do Not Block” vs. “Keep Clear” legend  
Unused railroad and utility right of way as landscape and/or bike path  
Focus on circulation improvement – 182<sup>nd</sup> corridor improvements  
Access restrictions at driveways – In-N-Out  
Identify paths/locations for various alternate modes of transportation, not limited to existing streets  
Meet with Police Department re: traffic problem areas in City  
Paint block numbers on pavement/street name signs on arterial streets  
Signs informing public of synchronized streets  
Speed humps  
Chamber of Commerce to discuss shuttle concept & other circulation  
Develop a drop off and pick up policy at elementary schools

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the suggestion process would continue next month when there is a full Commission.

A brief discussion centered on ways to encourage youth to walk and ride bicycles to school. Sergeant Koenig described enforcement efforts and the reeducation process that the Torrance Police Officers conduct at every school at the start of every school year.

## **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**8a.** Commissioner Sargent regretfully informed Commissioners that former Commissioner Tom Rische died last week and shared information about services.

**8b.** Commissioner Siani inquired about Downtown Torrance pedestrian improvements and staff stated that Metro awarded Community Development funds to widen Cravens Avenue. She asked that Community Development staff be invited to a future Commission meeting to discuss the plans.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:26 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph adjourned the meeting to March 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Submitted March 4, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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